

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 37

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the contributions of Colonel Bob Hamsley to the collective memory of World War II.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition through volunteerism through service in the United States Armed Forces; a number of these are members of our "Greatest Generation," having served in armed combat during World War II; and

WHEREAS, one such gallant veteran is Retired Colonel Bob Hamsley of Lawrence County; and

WHEREAS, as a Captain serving in the 15th Cavalry Regiment of General George Patton's 3rd Army in World War II, Bob Hamsley's heroic actions prevented the deaths of fourteen people on the village square of Plelo, France; and

WHEREAS, the fourteen were lined up by occupying German soldiers for execution by firing squad in front of a house gate when Lieutenant Hamsley and his platoon of five tanks roared into town; and

WHEREAS, of the soldiers in his platoon, only Colonel Hamsley and another survive; and

WHEREAS, this brave veteran has been recognized for his heroism by the grateful people of France on more than one occasion: Colonel Hamsley has received the Croix de

Guerre, and he has also been named a Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur, one of France's highest military honors; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Bob Hamsley also received the Bronze Star from his own grateful nation; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Bob Hamsley presently serves as President of the Lawrence County Tourism Volunteer Board and is also a member of the 15th Cavalry History Brittany Group, Chapter USA, a group established to perpetuate the memory of American soldiers who participated in the Brittany Liberation in August of 1944; and

WHEREAS, that future generations might remember the struggle to liberate Western Europe from the grip of Nazi Germany, Colonel Hamsley has worked to designate Plelo and Lawrenceburg as Sister Cities; and

WHEREAS, to that end, Colonel Hamsley attended the Governor's Conference on Tourism in Chattanooga in order to study public art, revitalization efforts, and tourism opportunities, all of which might serve as strategies for linking Lawrenceburg and Plelo more closely; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Bob Hamsley served his nation with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for heroism both in the United States Armed Forces and in society today; his courage is unquestioned, and his service can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Colonel Bob Hamsley for his gallant and courageous service during World War II, applaud him for his ongoing efforts to join Plelo and Lawrenceburg as Sister Cities, commend his service to these United States and the State of Tennessee, and wish him well in all his endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.